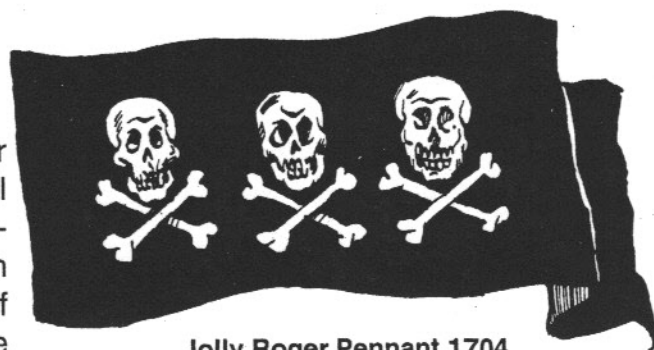


The Jolly Roger

Ships always displayed the flag of their native country. In addition to showing national pride, this helped identify the ships from a distance. Pirate ships also displayed flags. Each pirate captain had his own flag design. The sight of a pirate flag caused terror in the hearts of the pirates' intended victims.



Jolly Roger Pennant 1704

After 1700, pirate flags became known as "Jolly Rogers." We are not sure where the name came from. One theory is that it was from the French words *joli rouge*, which meant "pretty red." Red was the favorite color of some of the early pirate Jolly Rogers. Most of the pirate flags had white designs on a black background.

Many times the pirates would fly the flag of a nation rather than a Jolly Roger. They did this to help fool the crews of victim ships. Often they would fly the flag of the victim ship's own country. This would lull the victims into a false sense of safety. When the pirate ships moved closer for the attack, they then flew their own Jolly Rogers as a warning.

EXAMPLES OF SOME JOLLY ROGERS



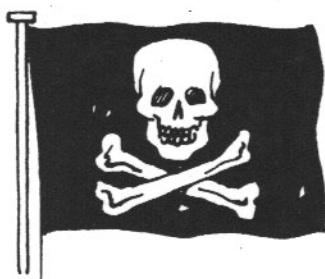
CALICO JACK RACKUM



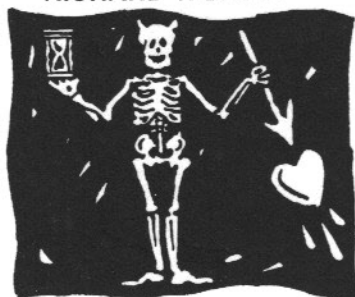
RICHARD WORLEY



BARTHOLOMEW ROBERTS



EDWARD ENGLAND



BLACKBEARD



CHRISTOPHER MOODY

The raising of a black Jolly Roger also signaled that the pirates would give "quarter" if the ship surrendered and offered no resistance. **Quarter** meant no punishment. The pirates raised a red Jolly Roger if they planned to give no quarter.

The most famous design of a Jolly Roger was that of a skull above a pair of crossbones. Other designs included skeletons, hourglasses, swords, and bleeding hearts. All of these designs indicated death to those who opposed the attack. The hourglass showed that time was running out for the victim ship.

Name _____ Date _____

Questions for Consideration

1. How do ships show national pride?

2. What is the name of a pirate flag?

3. What do the French words *joli rouge* mean in English?

4. What was the most common color used for the background of a pirate flag?

5. What did pirates mean by giving "quarter"?

6. What did the pirates mean if they raised a red flag?

7. What did an hourglass on a pirate ship mean?

8. What two things were pictured on the most famous pirate flag design?

9. Name three things (other than an hourglass and the answers to questions eight and nine) that pirates often put on their flags.

10. What two figures holding an hourglass appear on the flag of pirate captain Bartholomew Roberts?

11. Name two things that appeared on Blackbeard's flag.

The Caribbean

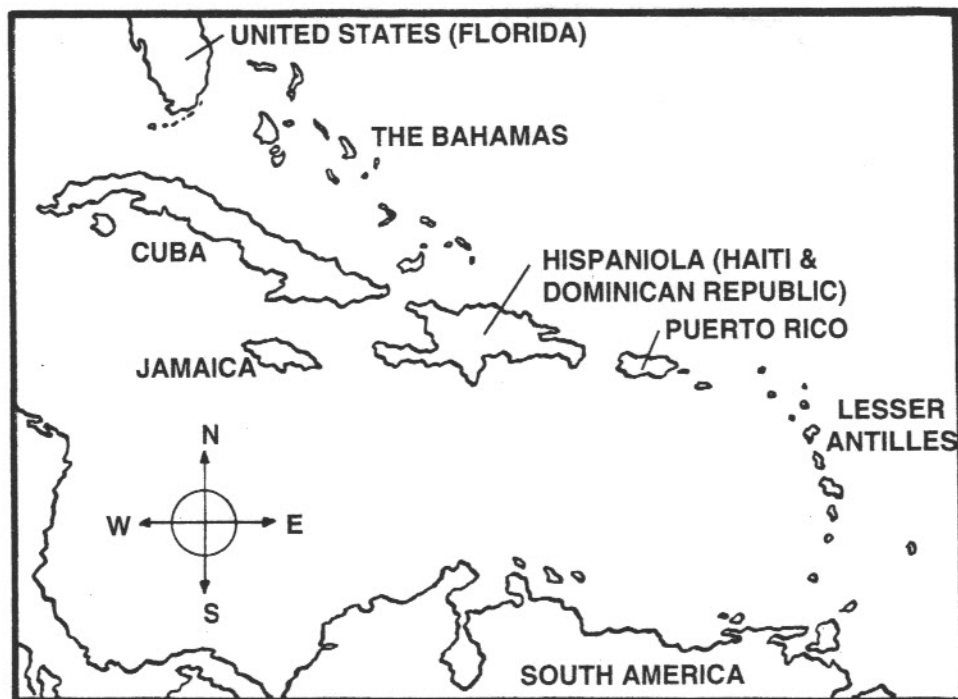
The Caribbean includes a group of tropical islands between the continents of North and South America. The major body of water is the Caribbean Sea. It is about 1,800 miles wide from east to west, and it is about 850 miles long from north to south.

Christopher Columbus was the first European to visit the Caribbean when he landed on San Salvador in 1492. The name of the region came from the native inhabitants, the Carib Indians. Columbus encountered the Caribs on his second voyage to the new world.

Soon after the voyages of Columbus, the Spanish took possession of most of the Caribbean territory. Their huge ships, loaded with gold, jewels, and other valuable cargo, made numerous trips between Spain and the West Indies. Through the years, the English, Dutch, French, and Danish nations challenged the Spanish domination of the area.

The combination of riches traveling by sea and the fighting between nations made the Caribbean a major location of privateering and piracy. The "golden age" of piracy lasted from the 1500s through the 1700s. Piracy ended in the mid-1800s when almost no places remained for the pirates to hide safely.

The most famous Caribbean pirates included Sir Frances Drake and Sir Henry Morgan, along with "Calico Jack" Rackum and his women pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Read.



The major islands of the Caribbean are in the northern Caribbean Sea. They include Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola (an island now divided into the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic), and Puerto Rico. These islands are known as the Greater Antilles or the West Indies.

A second group of islands, named the Bahamas, lie in the Atlantic Ocean southeast of Florida. These include Grand Bahama, Nassau, and San Salvador.

The third group of islands, known as the Lesser Antilles, lie in the eastern Caribbean Sea. These include the Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, and Barbados.

Name _____ Date _____

Questions for Consideration

1. The Caribbean lies between which two continents?

2. What is the size of the Caribbean Sea?

_____ miles from east to west and _____ miles from north to south.

3. Who was the first European to visit the area?

4. What was the name of the native inhabitants of the area?

5. When was the "golden age" of piracy in the Caribbean?

6. Name three famous men who were pirates in the Caribbean.

7. Name the two famous women pirates in the Caribbean.

8. What are the four major islands in the northern Caribbean Sea?

9. What three Bahamian islands are mentioned in the narrative?

10. Why did piracy end in the mid-1800s in the Caribbean?

Name _____ Date _____

Map Work

Using a globe or atlas, label the following locations on the map on this page.

Countries: **The United States** **Cuba** **Jamaica** **Haiti**
 Dominican Republic **Puerto Rico** **Central America** **Venezuela**

Bodies of Water : **Caribbean Sea** **Atlantic Ocean** **Gulf of Mexico**

Next, circle the: **Bahama Islands** and the **Lesser Antilles**

